The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter October 1, 1913, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.

VOL. 4. NO. 34 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1914. — WHOLE NO. 190

HELP THE MINERS.

Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking coal miners of Colorado.

A. F. OF L. WON'T USE FORCE

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—Again has the American Federation of Labor emphasized the fact that it is voluntary in organization and does not favor coercion or clubs to induce nonaffiliates to join.

A reinforcement of this principle was made after a spirited debate over a resolution which provided that the convention instruct A. F. of L. officers to proceed to "organize such local and national unions."

The resolution was favored by the committee, but its report was vigorously contested by many delegates.

President Gompers took the floor against the committee's report, and said in part:

"Do you realize that this is, in effect, a declaration of war? Do you realize that this resolution, in effect, says to the railroad brotherhoods that they must affiliate or we will destroy them? I certainly am not ready to subscribe to any such proposition. I do not think I can be charged with being opposed to federation. All my life has been devoted to federation. But there is not a national or international union or brotherhood whose entity I would ever invade.

"The action here proposed is most disastrous to the fundamental principle of the American Federation of Labor, which is a voluntary association. I am impatient as any man with the failure of the railroad brotherhoods and the bricklayers to join our Federation. I have urged them and persuaded them, and come away from them chagrined.

"Has ever before has it been proposed in a convention of the American Federation of Labor that we say to the railroad brotherhoods, join us or we will destroy you. Before I would sanction such action I would rather vote to wait for 25 years, a hundred years, forever, for the railroad brotherhoods to affiliate with us, if they ever come with the spirit that must come voluntarily."

On motion of President Gompers, the resolution was referred back to the committee, which later reported in favor of amending it to read that the national and affiliated organizations be invited to join the A. F. of L. This was accepted by the convention.

DISCUSS COMPENSATION LAWS.

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—The A. F. of L. convention accepted its committee's report that compulsory accident insurance appeared the best solution for compensation to injured workers and to the heirs of those killed. An amendment was also adopted which provides that where there are no heirs of a man killed at work, the compensation shall revert to the state instead of remaining in the regular compensation fund contributed by employers. Delegate Hannon of the Western Federation of Miners introduced this proposal and said employers should be compelled, in this way, to compensation of 66 2-3 per cent of a killed workman's salary was recommended for all states.

WANT EIGHT-HOUR RULING.

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—The A. F. of L. convention has instructed the executive council to ask the attorney general of the United States to decide whether or not the federal eight-hour law applies to material used in government work, if the opinion is adverse, the council is instructed to seek an amendment to this law which will include material.

MAY NIGHT HOURS GENERAL.

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—"Make the eight-hour day apply to every industry," was the answer of the A. F. of L. convention to the Brotherhood of Carpenters' proposal for the inauguration of a six-day campaign. The substitute declares a progressive decrease in working hours in keeping with the increased productivity of machinery, and a general agitation for an eight-day week. Where there are eight-hour laws governing the employment of women and children, a fight for their extension was advocated.

FAVOR "LABOR FORWARDS."

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—The "labor forward" idea of arousing interest in the trade unions movement has been indorsed by the A. F. of L. convention. The unionists of this city illustrated the practicability in their night parade, last week, by showing the delegates what nearly a year's constant agitation can accomplish. This campaign was conducted jointly by the local movement and officers of the A. F. of L., the unaffiliated organizers here for the purpose of being helpful.

ASK $3 PER WEEK INCREASE.

Denver, Nov. 21.—The Typographical union has adopted a new wage scale and submitted same to proprietors. An increase of $5 per week is asked. The work week shall consist of six days or nights of seven hours and thirty minutes each, lunch time of half hour not included. All excess work shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half. It is also provided that these rates shall not be construed as "preventing unusually competent workmen from receiving increased remuneration, nor any member of this union may ask for such increased remuneration without prejudice to his or her retention of their situation; and, should any dispute arise, such application resulting in applicant's discharge, it shall be within the province of the union to investigate such discharge through the proper committee."

The new wage scale is an answer to the employers' request for a 10 per cent in wages averaging 50 cents to $1 per day and eliminate the time for lunch. These were unanimously rejected by the union.

FOR DIRECT LEGISLATION.

Fort Arthur, Tex., Nov. 21.—Taking advantage of last year's law providing for legislature, the Trades and Labor Council of this city has gone on record in favor of the initiative, referendum and recall for the city government. It is proposed to initiate laws upon petition of 10 per cent voters. Ordinances relating to taxes or public corporations shall not be in force until 30 days after their adoption, that they may be submitted to the referendum if a sufficient number of citizens so desire. Under the law, 15 per cent involved against public officials where petitions are signed in a number equal to 30 per cent of the entire vote cast at the last preceding city election.

CONVICTS FOR ROAD BUILDING.

Wilmington, Del., Nov. 21.—In his annual report to the National Grange of the Patrons of Industry, National Master Oliver Wilson urged the use of convict labor for road building, saying it had been found satisfactory in the states where it has been tried. The report also favored the "pay as you go" system in building roads, rather than issuing bonds for this purpose.

MUST PROVE CLAIM.

Atlanta, Ga., Nov. 21.—The State Supreme Court has held that where an accident insurance company refuses to pay a death claim on the ground that deceased was killed "from voluntary exposure to unnecessary danger," which the policy forbids, the company must prove such voluntary exposure.

OLIGARCHY IN THE SOUTH?

Atlanta, Nov. 21.—In a pamphlet entitled "Does a Cotton Oligarchy Grip the South?" President Hollingsworth of the Southern Mortgage company shows the impossibility of reducing cotton acreage or similar proposals by agreement between cotton planters and that in twenty-seven counties in Georgia there are 51,052 farms, of which 16,604 are occupied by owners and 34,429 by tenants, or 70 per cent rented.

To illustrate How numerous interests profit at the expense of the tenant cotton planter, Mr. Hollingsworth says:

"The owners live in Atlanta, Savannah, Macon, Augusta, Columbus and in all of the other towns and cities in the state. Indeed, they may be found in New York and Washington and Baltimore, and in many other far-distant places. They are all Georgians, but they have abandoned these farms, handed them out to poor white folks and negroes, and are living elsewhere upon the cotton rents which they obtain. The owners of these rented farms are also bankers, merchants, cotton factors, commission warehouse men, fertilizer men, and other men in similar lines of business in all these cities, towns and villages in the state. Their one idea in reference to these farms is to see that they produce every bale of cotton possible, and each of these owners lives too far away to look after renting and to attend to the fathering of the crops. In the distribution of the rent, some local man is an agent for the principal owner, and it is a certain to be one of the prominent business men in the city, the town or the village nearest the farm. This local agent, of course, looks first to making a good rent contract for the owner. When that is accomplished, he looks to the rent, and it that, in some way or other, the handling of all the cotton produced on that farm, and all the supplies that go to the tenants on the farm, are handled by him. His only idea is to make the farm produce the cotton and he will attend to everything needful after he gets rents for the owner and make a commission or a sales profit on everything that is bought for the farm or sold from the farm."

PRISON SYSTEM FAULTY.

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—The failings of the modern prison system were revealed by Dr. Lewis N. Robinson, of Swarthmore College, who is also secretary of the state commission to investigate prison reform, which committee makes its report at the next meeting of the legislature. The fault, said Dr. Robinson, is the condition which prevents all prisoners being put to work. His commission will recommend that there be as many farms as necessary to provide work for that per centage of prisoners who now remain idle, he said.

"There are 6,000 prisoners kept in idleness all the year around in Pennsylvania prisons," said Dr. Robinson. "This enforced idleness not only means the ruination of the state, but it demoralizes men and mentally, but it makes him worse than he was when he first entered the institutions. He comes out of the penitentiary have to keep him, but only too often it has to keep his wife and children. This severance of the family tie and the family responsibility which every good man feels, even though he has committed a crime, is one of the most serious effects that once a man is cut off from providing for his family for a certain, time he seldom ever takes up that responsibility again."

RECORD OF U. S. PROGRESS.

Washington, Nov. 21.—Evidences of improved social conditions and a marked decrease in illiteracy are features of a report issued by the Federal Department of Commerce, entitled "Statistical Record of the Progress of the United States, 1800-1914." Since 1850 the population of the United States has more than quadrupled. Over 19,000,000 children are now enrolled in public schools and about 220,000 students are in colleges and higher institutions of learning. The cost of education approximates $600,000,000 a year. Over 22,000 newspapers and periodicals are disseminating information. There is a steady growth in the number of libraries. The 9,000 depositors in savings banks were 261,000 in number; today the number is 11,000,000, with deposits more than 100 times as much as sixty years ago.

STRIKE RAISES WAGES.

Scranton, Pa., Nov. 21.—After a two weeks' strike, 600 men employed at Cliff Throwing mill have returned to work. Wages are raised $1 a week, making the minimum wage $9 a week. Employes shall keep fewer "alides," which means that they will do less work, and that more workers will be employed, Miss Mary Kelleher, organizer for the United Textile Workers in this district, negotiated the settlement.

STATE TO BUY RAILROAD.

Columbus, Ohio, Nov. 21.—The attorney general is preparing a decision on the question of the state purchasing the Wheeling & Lake Erie railroad. The Cleveland city council has asked that the feasibility of such action be inquired into. Cheap coal transportation to Northern Ohio is the end desired.

STATE INSURANCE IS CHEAP

Madison, Wis., Nov. 21.—In a report by State Commissioner of Insurance Ekern it is shown that "dividends declared on Wisconsin state insurance policies still after being in force one year, show great savings to policy holders as compared with the cost to policy holders in any old line company."

The total insurance in force is $219,000,000, held by 321,000 policy holders. These holders have paid $11,629.46 in premiums. Of this, $6,246.21 is to provide for death claims during the first year of policy.

There is now held in reserve $5,128.12. The total funds on hand are $6,860.

The fund has invested $5,860 in first mortgages on Wisconsin improved farm property, all drawing interest at 6 per cent, net to the fund.

The first year results show a saving in net payments of nearly 50 per cent compared with the next lowest participating companies, and a saving of more than 58 per cent as compared with the highest dividend paying companies. Compared with the non-participating companies, saving is even larger.

The first year dividends of state life insurance range from 25 per cent to 50 per cent of policy. Only two companies doing business in this state pay first year dividends.

Besides the dividends, the difference in premiums between state life insurance policies and those of private companies ranges from $1.50 to $14 each year per $1,000 of insurance, in favor of the state life fund.

The regular companies spend an average of about $40 in agents' commissions on each $1,000 policy, which the state life fund saves to its policy-holders.

G. F. & I. EARNINGS GO DOWN

Denver, Nov. 21.—In his annual report to Colorado Fuel & Iron company stockholders, President Welborn attributes the decrease of earnings for the year ending June 30 to $8,521,85. No mention is made of the other millions lost since that time. The miners' strike, says the official, is responsible for the greater portion of this deficit.

In referring to the company stores, President Welborn exultingly declares:

"It is a significant fact which bears evidence of the favor in which our mine stores are held by the workmen, whether employed or idle, that the retail sales in the stores of southern Colorado, the center of the strike trouble, during the fiscal year under review, were $47,097,52 more than they were during the last preceding year."

In commenting on this feature of the report, Editor Hanrahan of the United Labor Bulletin, says:

"In view of the fact that all employes, strikebreakers and guards, at both of the coal camps like sheep and are not permitted to trade elsewhere, this increase was to be expected."

President Welborn is regretful over the unsatisfactory wages being given his striking employes, but makes no mention of the hordes of strikebreakers and gunmen employed by the corporation for the purpose of continuing the violation of State laws—the reason for the strike.

FAVORS HIGH WAGES.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 21.—"I am one of those who believe in a more even distribution of wealth, and in the wages enjoyed under our present system of society," said Mayor Harrison, of Chicago, at a meeting of American mayors, who are discussing municipal problems in this city. "There is no terror for me in the idea that the wages of the American working man are slowly but surely going up. I believe that the hours and working conditions are steadily improving. That would be the ideal country in which there was no unemployment, but many well to do, in which every working man of industry and sobriety received a wage upon which he could live in comfort, educate his children, give his family some of the luxuries of life and lay by enough for old age and for the rainy day that seems sure to come to every life. Let the public set the good example of paying the laborer and mechanic an honest wage."

LABOR'S NIGHT PARADE.

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—This city opened its era in the monster night parade of Philadelphia trades unionists, last Friday, in honor of the A. F. of L. convention. Nearly 70,000 organized men and wogen marched for hours behind the brass of 50 bands and through an electrically lighted court of honor a block long, which was erected by the municipal authorities. A handsome committee had provided automobiles for the women delegates, but they declined to ride and joined with the marchers. The demonstration created a profound impression on the thousands of spectators who witnessed the solid lines of men and women who walked in solid masses for hours though Philadelphia's principal thoroughfares.

DODGING THE BLAME.

Madison, Wis., Nov. 21.—At a session of the grand jury investigating graft in this city, Gov. Ammons, of Colorado, voiced his approval of the plan to give state authorities power to remove subordinate officials. The western governor cited his experience during the miners' strike, when the militia had ended much property and cost more than 200 lives, all because other state officials would not carry out the desires of the governor and defied his orders." Mr. Ammons said two families live in 13 continued violations of state laws by the mining operators, which, it has been repeatedly shown, is the reason for Colorado's industrial upheaval.

LOW WAGES; FEW BATHTUBS.

Chicago, Nov. 21.—There are 357 families, totaling 1,596 persons, of whom are children, living in one block in a Chicago tenement district, the bureau of social survey reports.

The investigators found only eight bathtubs in the block—an average of one tub for each 99 people. Forty-five families have the eight bathtubs, the remaining 1,550 having no tubs at all. More than one-fourth of the families live in three room apartments and have only one bedroom. Rates of the householders were found to average $12.27 a week.

HARD LABOR DEPLETES ENERGY

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—Individuals have a limit to their energy, which, when once passed through hard labor, devitalizes, was the thought expressed by Dr. Scott Nearing, of the University of Pennsylvania, in a recent address.

The educator declared that the work day should be based on the energy units which the particular industry requires, and said that in some industries a four-hour day was all sufficient.

DISCUSS EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Racine, Wis., Nov. 21.—Representatives of the Trades and Labor Council and the Building Trades Council urged an eight-hour day for city employes before a common council committee. It was decided that the matter should be left to a vote of the people, and to this the unionists agreed.

FREAK MEASURE DEFEATED.

Detroit, Nov. 21.—The voters of this State have defeated a proposed amendment to the Michigan fraternal law, which, if adopted, would have destroyed many of the beneficiary features of labor unions. The freak amendment was opposed in the name of labor unions and members of fraternal organizations.

FAVOR A "MODEL" UNION.

Cincinnati, Nov. 21.—A "model" union of street car men is to be urged by the Cincinnati Employers' association, whose organizers are attempting to form the "independent" union of street car men in Cincinnati." It is proposed that the street car company have a voice in the management of the new institution.

MINERS GO ON STRIKE.

Pittsburg, Kan., Nov. 21.—Because of a failure of the company to live up to its agreement, 1,500 members of the United Mine Workers, district No. 14, called a strike of employes of the Cherokee and Pittsburg Coal and Mining Company. Over 1,000 miners are involved.

STRIKERS REPORT PROGRESS.

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 21.—Improved conditions for over one-half of the striking carpet and curtain workers is the report made by these workers who are conducting every their prospects for complete success

A. F. OF L. WILL BUILD HOME

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—The A. F. of L. convention has instructed the executive council to provide a home of its own for the American Federation of Labor. The officers are given wide latitude in the matter, and are permitted to either purchase or construct an appropriate site.

The question has been discussed for years, and the executive council has devoted much time to the subject, which becomes more pressing for a solution as the continued growth of the various departments of the federation demands more room for the present quarters.

At the Seattle convention the council was instructed to make a report on this subject to the Philadelphia convention, which was done, with this recommendation:

"That this convention authorize and direct the executive council of the A. F. of L. to cause to be constructed or to purchase a building for an office building for the A. F. of L. and its departments and such other unions for the labor movement as may be suitable; that the executive council be further authorized to avail itself of the former action of the convention relative to the A. F. of L. to use such funds as are authorized in the furtherance of the object therein stated, and that the executive council be further authorized to raise such other funds as might be necessary to carry out the instructions herein set forth."

The foregoing recommendation were accepted by the convention, and the council stands instructed and empowered to proceed with the work, as viewed by the organized men and women of North America.

SOCIAL WORKER ASSAILS WAR.

Washington, Nov. 21.—In a speech in this city, Mrs. Emmaline Pethick Lawrence, English suffragist, said:

"What is the use of social work, of science or art, even of motherhood, if every second generation our husbands and sons are struck down in the flower? Everything that the social and political reformers have tried to effect in the course of the nineteenth century, of health and of joy in the life of the people has been swept away. It might as well never have been attempted. Indeed we can put an end to the frightful menace of war, we may just as well give up all attempt at social betterment."

The speaker favored:

"Creation of constitutional machinery, whereby some states by which democracies may exercise control over foreign policy.

"Ratification by the people of all treaties and alliances made by democracies.

"Manufacture of armaments by governments instead of private concerns, and prohibition of shipment of ammunition from one country to another.

"Education of the allies in the European war, when the opportune moment arrives, of their slogan that their war is against war.

"Consent of the population of a province, before it is transferred from one nation to another and that the expressed desire is transferred from one government to another at the end of the war.

"Publication of treaties, agreements that they will support any one law-abiding nation that is aggressively attacked and that any smaller nation menaced by a stronger power."

END WAR BY POPULAR RULE.

Boston, Mass., Nov. 21.—At a peace meeting in this city, Prof. Jay William Hudson, of the University of Missouri, said:

"The German people are no more responsible for this war than you are; neither are the French, the English, the Russians nor the Austrians. Kings alone are responsible and the only solution is for the people to take away from the kings the power to make war.

"While we are neutral in regard to peoples and countries, we are not neutral in regard to principles. We will not allow any nation to say that the way to spread culture is by murderous conquest.

"The issue is plain. It is a choice between the old patriotism which insists upon loyalty to one's country, right or wrong, as against loyalty to the welfare of mankind.

"The European war is the paradox of civilization. It is a huge fight between social organization and social anarchy."

WANT DIVIDENDS PLEDGED.

Chicago, Nov. 21.—The plan favored by President Ripley, of the Santa Fe railroad, that the railroads be placed under government control with a government representative on the directorate of each road, and in return an equitable dividend be guaranteed by the government, is indorsed by Vice President Kruttschnitt, of the Harriman road, and President Mudge, of the Rock Island. The former said that under the present system obnoxious, while state bodies make regulations regarding service. He believes these agencies should be consolidated.

PLUMBERS MAKE GAINS.

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—The United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters and the General Fire Extinguisher company of America have adjusted their long controversy, and in the future this powerful corporation will recognize the foundries, while state bodies make regulations regarding service. He believes these agencies should be consolidated.

WANT RIVERSIDE BATHS.

Racine, Wis., Nov. 21.—Representatives of the Trades and Labor Council and the Building Trades Council urged an eight-hour day for city employes before a common council committee. It was decided that the matter should be left to a vote of the people, and to this the unionists agreed.

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STRIKERS REPORT PROGRESS.

Tewarkana, Nov. 21.—Snappers employed at the Texas Glass company's plant are on strike because they have been refused wage increases. It is stated that this concern is one of the largest in the country.

CITY COUNCIL WANTS PEACE

Stockton, Cal., Nov. 21.—The city council has answered a request for more police by declaring in favor of arbitration, which has locked out its union workmen, by the employers refusing to destroy their organizations. After several public hearings, a committee of common council recommends that both sides enter into an agreement, each with the other, for the maintenance of the present scale of wages and hours now in force as heretofore adopted by the various labor unions of the city of Stockton."

It is further recommended that "the appointment of the said differences as the best method of preventing the continuation and future occurrence of the disturbances of the peace of the city of Stockton, is an amicable adjustment and settlement of the differences now existing between the members of the Merchants, Manufacturers and Employers' Association and the labor unions."

The council's action is interpreted as peace overtures by the workers, who went to recently for some arbitration, and the next move of the employers will be watched with interest.

MAKES UNUSUAL AWARDS.

San Francisco, Nov. 21.—The State industrial accident commission has ruled even if a man is suffering from old age, paralysis and other infirmities, and is certain to cause death, his family is entitled to compensation under the State law if a workman's death hits him at work which hastens his end.

In the case of a steel company employe, who was struck by a dredger bucket and received injuries from which lockjaw developed after nine days, compensation was awarded on the ground that the lockjaw and its consequences were proximately caused by the accident.

The Northwestern Pacific Railroad was awarded $5,000 death benefits to the widow of a conductor who was killed by a landslide while he was going to a telephone to report the arrival of his train.

Death benefits were awarded the widow of a longshoreman who was knocked into the water while unloading lumber from a ship. His injuries were slight, but he were not serious, but pneumonia resulted from the immersion and death followed.

HAS NO "PROPERTY RIGHTS."

Springfield, Ill., Nov. 21.—The State Supreme Court has ruled that a stenographer employed by the city of Chicago, is not deprived of his property because he has no property in his unearned salary, and does he did not lose his position or perform its duties by virtue of any contract, that he had no property right either to his position or the salary attached thereto.

The stenographer attempted to set aside the law which provides for the establishment of a pension fund in the following words: "$30,000 or so over, to be derived by assessing employes $2 a month. The court held that the act was not unconstitutional because it applied only to cities of 100,000 inhabitants, or because certain employes were excluded from its operation, since in neither its effect was to reduce the stenographer's salary.

SAYS KINDNESS PAYS.

San Francisco, Nov. 21.—In a talk to the Commonwealth club of this city on "How the State Treats Its Prisoners," Warden Johnston said:

"Some people contend that we are too lenient in our prisons. I never realized the full power of kindness until I became a big prison work. I have never found a case where kindness failed to win. I have not have an ill effect on discipline. In fact, there is less trouble now than was encountered in the old prison days. Kindness is powerful, and we are proving that kindness, sanity and humanity toward the prisoner are making him go forth into the world from the prison more of a man and more inclined to help himself. He is more self-respecting and self-supporting than under the old system."

PRESENT NEW WAGE SCALE.

Toledo, Ohio, Nov. 21.—The Electrical Workers' union has presented a new wage scale to apply to its members employed by the city. Eight hours, time and one-half for overtime, double time for Sundays and holidays are included. The rates are as follows:

Foremen, $125 per month; journeymen linemen, $4 per day; journeymen troublemen, $4; apprentice linemen, $1; apprentice wiremen, $2.50 per day for the first year, $2.75 for the second year and $3 for the third year; groundmen, $1; apprentice groundmen, $2.50 per day for the first year, $2.75 for the second year and $3 for the third year; cablemen, $4; cablemen's helper, $2.75.

FAVOR A "LABOR FORWARD."

St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 21.—The A. F. of L. meeting at Philadelphia will be indorsed the "labor forward movement" to be inaugurated next spring by the local United Trades and Labor Council. The convention instructed President Gompers and the executive council to call upon the various national and international unions to cooperate with the A. F. of L. organizers with a view to bringing about a thoroughly organized condition in and about the city of St. Louis." It is proposed to start the movement by or about May 1 next, and the organized workers of this city are already planning for the event.

NON-UNIONISTS QUIT.

Sacramento, Cal., Nov. 21.—Rather than bear the odium of being strikebreakers, the non-unionists who worked on the bridge in this city with the organized workers when the contracting firm declared for the eight-hour day, have themselves involved are structural iron workers, pile drivers, and carpenters.

URGE ORGANIZATION.

Vallejo, Cal., Nov. 21.—The Boilermakers' union of this city is making marked gains in membership, and is now advocating the organization of all boat yard employes in this locality under the banner of the A. F. of L. and affiliated international.

TO ENFORCE BARBERS' LAW.

Atlanta, Nov. 21.—Gov. Slaton has appointed the commission to enforce the barbers' law, which went into effect at session of the state legislature. Two of the appointees are members of the Barbers' union, and the third is an employing barber of this city.

WANT FREE TEXT BOOKS.

Sioux City, Iowa, Nov. 21.—After three attempts by organized labor to secure sufficient signatures, the Trades and Labor Assembly announces that the required number have been secured and the question of free text books will be submitted to the voters of this city.

STRIKE FOR SHORTER HOURS

Galveston, Nov. 21.—Union bakers of this city are on strike for a reduction of hours from 60 to eight and nine-half per day, with pay for overtime increased from 40 and 45 cents per hour to 45 and 50 cents per hour.

The master bakers have made an attempt, to capture public opinion by claiming that if they reduced the working hours they would have to reduce the size of the loaf of bread. Several bakers have answered this by showing that in one establishment, having a daily capacity of 28,000 loaves, the additional cost would be $2.80, or one cent for each 100 loaves.

The bakers continue this line of attack as follows:

"Eight months ago flour advance 20c per barrel. On the strength of this the shop mentioned reduced the size of its loaves one ounce each. A little later flour went back down 30 cents per barrel, but the size of the loaf was not changed.

"Soon flour again advanced 30 cents per barrel and the size of the loaf was again reduced one ounce.

"Sugar then advanced about 1 cent per pound and the master baker took off another ounce from each loaf of bread. One pound of sugar is used in every 100 loaves of bread. The sugar had advanced one cent per pound or one cent for 100 loaves of bread. Yet for each loaf the master baker took off 160 ounces of dough, more than 50 cents worth. He got back fifty for one right there.

"By this time the European war had gotten under full swing and evidently furnished another excuse, and this same master baker took off another half ounce from every loaf.

"Within the past eight months one bakery has reduced the size of its loaf of bread exactly 2 1-2 ounces and of this reduction only one ounce could possibly be accounted for by the increased wholesale price of material used in making bread."

FAVORS LITERACY TEST.

Wilmington, Del., Nov. 21.—A literacy test for immigrants is favored by Master Oliver Wilson of the National Grange, in his annual report to the convention in this city.

He says: "The United States has always welcomed to its shores those from foreign countries who desire to become a part of our free institutions and government. In our prosperity and ambition we became great as a nation we admitted almost all who cared to come, with little or no restriction. The time is here when laws should be enacted and enforced safeguarding our heritage. All should be taught that it is a serious thing, involving responsibility, to become a citizen of the United States, and when application is made for citizenship no applicant should be required to be able to read and write the English language and state a reasonable time in which the constitution of the United States as well as the state in which he asks for naturalization."

FOUNDATION IS DENOUNCED.

Wilmington, Del., Nov. 21.—The Rockefeller Foundation, an institution financed by Standard Oil millions, was denounced by William A. Creasy, master of the Pennsylvania State Grange, in his annual report to the National Grange of the Patrons of Industry. Mr. Creasy said:

"The Rockefeller Foundation has been given a $100,000,000 endowment, and is a very unenviable light. It seems to be used to get control of the avenues of publicity for the purpose of heading off legislation that might interfere with the income of Standard Oil and Uncle John.

"Congress declared that the value of denatured alcohol for illuminating and motive purposes had been hidden from the commissioner under the pretense of assisting the farmer, in order that the monopoly of the oil trust cannot be broken.

WOULD CHECK CHILD LABOR.

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CHILD LABOR COST IS HIGH

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—In a leading editorial, the Public Ledger, of this city, says:

"Child labor is a prodigal and senseless waste of national resources. No defense of it can ever be valid. To work is the duty of adults; to learn and to play are the inalienable rights of children.

"A nation depends for its intellectual and moral progress, for the wealth and health of its population; to drain the vitality, draw the nerves and circumscribe the education of the children who are going them out before they come to maturity is a clumsy method of economy. Factories in children who spend the formative years of their lives in the grewsy, exhausting work of mills and factories are unfitted for the high and responsible duties of citizenship in a republic.

"When President Gompers sets his face rigidly against child labor upon such grounds as these, he has the support of all clear and far-seeing American citizens. Sentiment, humanity, and neither the urgent temporary necessities of parents nor the demand for cheap labor by employers should ever be allowed in the argument. Mr. Gompers says: 'It must be remembered that the children of to-day are the future citizens of this republic. It is not a question of dollars and cents, but of industrial supremacy, but of the future development of the American race. If these children are going to take an active and leading part in the civic and cultural life of the United States, they must be taken from the factories.'"

DEAD UNIONISTS HONORED

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—One of the features of the A. F. of L. convention was the impressive memorial services held last Sunday in honor of the memory of three Philadelphia trade unionists.

The memorial was originally planned in honor of P. J. McGuire, the "father of Labor day," founder of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and one of the founders of the A. F. of L. The speakers, however, included in their tributes the names of William D. Huber, late president, and George Chance, printer. President Kirby, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, presided.

President Gompers delivered the principal address and spoke of the life work of P. J. McGuire, whose widow and two daughters attended the services. The speaker recalled McGuire's refusal to desert the trade union movement to accept the governorship of Missouri, the ticket he was asked to head being later elected. The A. F. of L. executive told how McGuire acted as the chairman of a monster mass meeting of unemployed in Tompkins Square, N. Y., on January 13, 1873. The meeting was called for the purpose of demanding public work for the unemployed, but it was broken up by the police, who acted on the order of a Tompkins Square policeman's club with him for the rest of his life.

"But this is the last time that such oppression and injustice could not be beaten down by," P. J. McGuire by any policeman's club," said President Gompers. "The Tompkins Square meeting was called together again in Cooper Union, and the spirit spread to other cities, and rose in the foundation of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, and in the foundation of the American Federation of Labor."

Secretary Duffy, of the Brotherhood of Carpenters, said:

"The epitaph of Peter J. McGuire is written in our hearts. He was not only the founder of the brotherhood, he done not only belong to us carpenters. His labors were for all. For all women wage workers, for all child slaves. He fought in every movement for the betterment of mankind."

John P. Frey, editor of the Iron Molders' Journal, said that this city is not only the birthplace of liberty, but that here the first central labor union in the world was formed in 1827, here the first trades union newspaper in the world, the Mechanics' Free Press, was started in 1828, and here the first international union in the world was formed in 1850 by William H. Sylvis.

Frank Feigenbaum, of the President Duncan, of the A. F. of L. said the movement started by "good old Sylvis" died with him for a time, but that the spirit of unionism was revived shortly afterward by Samuel Kempers, cigarmaker; Peter J. McGuire, carpenter, and a few other labor leaders, and by them carried forward to a successful permanency.

VICTIMIZING WORKERS.

Trinidad, Colo., Nov. 21.—The Free Press of this city prints a fac simile of the pay roll statement of Lon Peay, an employe of the Colorado-American Fuel company, which sustains the claims made by striking miners that the company's allied concerns of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company are victimizing their workmen. It is shown that $3.23 of Peay's earnings were $12.95. Out of this were deducted 65 cents for the "sanitary department," and $1.50 for "hospital," the balance due of $13.11. This statement, it is believed, will be used in evidence given before the congressional investigating committee."

MUST WARN WORKERS.

Philadelphia, Nov. 21.—That it is the duty of an employer to warn employes of any hidden dangers of their work was the assertion of Judge Orlady in a recent opinion rendered under the presumption of assisting the farmer, in order that the monopoly of the oil trust cannot be broken.

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SCHOOLS AS SOCIAL CENTERS.

Washington, Nov. 21.—Congress will be asked by the commissioners of the District of Columbia, board of education to amend the law which prohibits the use of school buildings for other than school purposes. Numerous requests have been made in the past for the use of school buildings as meeting places of civic organizations, but under the law such permission cannot be granted. Congress will be asked to set out that section of the act, it is probable the buildings eventually will be used as social centers, thus relieving congestion in the streets and other organizations working for the city's betterment.

SIX-DAY LAW IS LEGAL.

Rochester, N. Y., Nov. 21.—The appellate division of the Supreme Court has upheld the law which provides that every employe shall have at least 24 consecutive hours of rest out of each week. A Buffalo packing company was found guilty of violating the law, and appealed on the ground that the law violated the fourteenth amendment of the Federal constitution. This time-honored defense was futile and the court upheld the lower court.

WAS JOHN D. CHEATED!

Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 21.—In an affidavit presented to the county tax commissioner, it is charged that Rockefeller was "cheated" when he paid $15,200 in New York for a painting, which has been assessed by the tax board as the basis for the board's action, but the estimate now avers he made "a bad bargain" and that the painting is worth more than $5,000, and possibly only $2,500.

FARMERS FOR EDUCATION.

Minneapolis, Nov. 21.—Upholsterers in this city, on strike to resist the establishment of a non-union shop, are aiding in the erection and maintenance of a college to educate young women as high-grade teachers and secretaries.

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PLASTERERS STRIKE.

Winnipeg, Nov. 21.—Because non-union men were working before the regular wage rate, members of the Plasterers' union, numbering 400, have struck and by them carried forward to a successful permanency.

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